

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph before the first paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/505,221 filed September 23, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The present invention relates generally to scalable video coding systems and more particularly to rate-distortion optimized data partitioning (RDDP) of discrete cosine transform (DCT) coefficients for video transmission.